



27 OCT 1973

Honorable John C. Stennis, Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your request of April 16, 1973, for our recommendations on S.1547, a bill "To establish a Joint Committee on National Security."

S.1547 establishes a Joint Committee on National Security comprised of 25 members to study: (a) whether foreign, domestic and military policies of the United States are being appropriately integrated; (b) the recommendations and activities of the National Security Council; and (c) Government classification and declassification practices and to recommend new procedures for classification and declassification of material.

While this Agency is not specifically mentioned in S.1547, the activities of the National Security Council are within the purview of the bill and include the direction of this Agency. Moreover, in the introductory statement on the bill, it was pointed out that a continuing review of the operations of the Central Intelligence Agency would be one of the functions of the Joint Committee on National Security (119 Cong. Rec., daily ed. April 11, 1973, 7082).

It is my view that the manner in which legislative oversight of the Central Intelligence Agency is exercised is a question for the Congress itself to decide. A review of the operations of this Agency by the proposed Joint Committee would appear to overlap the oversight now being performed by several committees in both Houses, including your Committee's Subcommittee on Central Intelligence. I have every reason to believe that the Congress, in effecting any such change in oversight, would be conscious of the need to protect intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

/s/ W. E. Colby

W. E. Colby
Director

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OLC/LLM:fmc (17 Sept. 73)

93^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 1547

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 11, 1973

Mr. HUMPHREY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

OCTOBER 9, 1974

The Committee on Armed Services discharged, and referred to the Committee on Government Operations

A BILL

To establish a Joint Committee on National Security.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the Congress declares that—

4 (1) it has been vested with responsibility under
5 the Constitution to assist in the formulation of the for-
6 eign, domestic, and military policies of the United
7 States;

8 (2) such policies are directly related to the security
9 of the United States;

10 (3) the integration of such policies promotes our
11 national security; and

1 (4) the National Security Council was established
2 by the National Security Act of 1947 as a means of
3 integrating such policies and furthering the national
4 security.

5 SEC. 2. (a) In order to enable the Congress to more
6 effectively carry out its constitutional responsibility in the
7 formulation of foreign, domestic, and military policies of the
8 United States and in order to provide the Congress with
9 an improved means for formulating legislation and provid-
10 ing for the integration of such policies which will further
11 promote the security of the United States, there is estab-
12 lished a joint committee of the Congress which shall be
13 known as the Joint Committee on National Security, here-
14 after referred to as the "joint committee". The joint com-
15 mittee shall be composed of twenty-five Members of Con-
16 gress as follows:

17 (1) the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

18 (2) the majority and minority leaders of the Senate
19 and the House of Representatives;

20 (3) the chairmen and ranking minority members
21 of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the Senate
22 Committee on Armed Services, the Senate Committee
23 on Foreign Relations, and the Joint Committee on
24 Atomic Energy.

25 (4) the chairmen and ranking minority members

1 of the House Appropriations Committee, the House
2 Armed Services Committee, and the House Foreign
3 Affairs Committee;

4 (5) three Members of the Senate appointed by
5 the President of the Senate, two of whom shall be
6 members of the majority party and one of whom shall
7 be a member of the minority party;

8 (6) three Members of the House of Representa-
9 tives appointed by the Speaker, two of whom shall be
10 members of the majority party and one of whom shall
11 be a member of the minority party.

12 (b) The joint committee shall select a chairman and a
13 vice chairman from among its members.

14 (c) Vacancies in the membership of the joint committee
15 shall not affect the power of the remaining members to
16 execute the functions of the joint committee and shall be
17 filled in the same manner as in the case of the original
18 appointment.

19 SEC. 3. (a) The joint committee shall have the follow-
20 ing functions:

21 (1) to make a continuing study of the foreign,
22 domestic, and military policies of the United States with
23 a view to determining whether and the extent to which
24 such policies are being appropriately integrated in fur-
25 therance of the national security;

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1 (2) to make a continuing study of the recommen-
2 dations and activities of the National Security Council
3 relating to such policies, with particular emphasis upon
4 reviewing the goals, strategies, and alternatives of such
5 foreign policy considered by the Council; and

6 (3) to make a continuing study of Government
7 practices and recommendations with respect to the clas-
8 sification and declassification of documents, and to rec-
9 ommend certain procedures to be implemented for the
10 classification and declassification of such material.

11 (b) The joint committee shall make reports from time
12 to time (but not less than once each year) to the Senate and
13 House of Representatives with respect to its studies. The re-
14 ports shall contain such findings, statements, and recom-
15 mendations as the joint committee considers appropriate.

16 SEC. 4. (a) The joint committee, or any subcommittee
17 thereof, is authorized, in its discretion (1) to make expendi-
18 tures, (2) to employ personnel, (3) to adopt rules respect-
19 ing its organization and procedures, (4) to hold hearings,
20 (5) to sit and act at any time or place, (6) to subpoena
21 witnesses and documents, (7) with the prior consent of the
22 agency concerned, to use on a reimbursable basis the services
23 of personnel, information, and facilities of any such agency,
24 (8) to procure printing and binding, (9) to procure the
25 temporary services (not in excess of one year) or intermit-

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1 tent services of individual consultants, or organizations
2 thereof, and to provide assistance for the training of its pro-
3 fessional staff, in the same manner and under the same con-
4 ditions as a standing committee of the Senate may procure
5 such services and provide such assistance under subsections
6 (i) and (j), respectively, of section 202 of the Legislative
7 Reorganization Act of 1946, and (10) to take depositions
8 and other testimony. No rule shall be adopted by the joint
9 committee under clause (3) providing that a finding, state-
10 ment, recommendation, or report may be made by other
11 than a majority of the members of the joint committee then
12 holding office.

13 (b) Subpenas may be issued over the signature of the
14 chairman of the joint committee or by any member desig-
15 nated by him or the joint committee, and may be served
16 by such person as may be designated by such chairman or
17 member. The chairman of the joint committee or any mem-
18 ber thereof may administer oaths to witnesses. The pro-
19 visions of sections 102-104 of the Revised Statutes (2
20 U.S.C. 192-194) shall apply in the case of any failure of any
21 witness to comply with a subpoena or to testify when sum-
22 moned under authority of this section.

23 (c) With the consent of any standing, select, or special
24 committee of the Senate or House, or any subcommittee,
25 the joint committee may utilize the services of any staff

1 member of such House or Senate committee or subcom-
2 mittee whenever the chairman of the joint committee deter-
3 mines that such services are necessary and appropriate.

4 (d) The expenses of the joint committee shall be paid
5 from the contingent fund of the Senate from funds appro-
6 priated for the joint committee, upon vouchers signed by the
7 chairman of the joint committee or by any member of the
8 joint committee authorized by the chairman.

9 (e) Members of the joint committee, and its person-
10 nel, experts, and consultants, while traveling on official
11 business for the joint committee within or outside the United
12 States, may receive either the per diem allowance author-
13 ized to be paid to Members of the Congress or its employees,
14 or their actual and necessary expenses if an itemized state-
15 ment of such expenses is attached to the voucher.

93d CONGRESS
2d Session

S. 1547

A BILL

To establish a Joint Committee on National
Security.

By Mr. HUMPHREY

APRIL 11, 1973

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed
Services

OCTOBER 9, 1974

The Committee on Armed Services discharged, and
referred to the Committee on Government Opera-
tions

Executive Registry

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

T. EDWARD BRASWELL, JR., CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

April 16, 1973

Honorable James R. Schlesinger
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Director:

Enclosed herewith is a copy of S. 1547
now pending before this committee, which is referred to
you for consideration.

It will be appreciated if you will submit to this
committee 6 copies of the recommendations of your
Department with reference to this legislation.

Sincerely,

John C. Stennis.

Enclosure